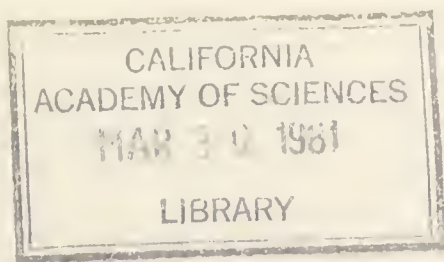


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# the gull

Volume 63

Berkeley, Calif.

April 1981

Number 4

## Acceptable Nuclear Risk?

Nuclear power and the nuclear arms race will be discussed during a program titled "Acceptable Risk?" presented by Lucy Gluck and Barry Kaplan of *Survival Action* at the April general membership meeting. The nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mining to electricity, bombs and radioactive wastes is shown through slides as well as in the stories of the people affected by the nuclear age — Navajo miners, atomic workers, members of the armed forces and residents of communities near nuclear test sites. A question-answer period and general discussion will follow the slide presentation. Materials on alternative sources of energy will be available.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Please join us.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

## Field Trips Calendar

See the March *Gull* for details on the following trip:

**Saturday, April 4—Beginners' birding trip at Redwood Regional Park, Oakland.**

**Wednesday, April 8—Mini trip to Mitchell Canyon.** Meet at Claremont Hotel parking lot, Ashby entrance, at 8:15 a.m. to carpool.

Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Go about five miles, turn right at Clayton. Go about a mile, make a right turn on Mitchell Canyon Rd. and go to parking lot

at end of road. This is a delightful area; easy streamside walking with many songbirds, especially Bewick's Wrens and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Saturday, April 11—Bothe-Napa State Park.** This is a particularly beautiful park in the spring, with migrating warblers and vireos, Winter Wrens, wildflowers and, if we are lucky, Pileated Woodpeckers. We will walk about four to five miles and will mostly bird by ear. From the East Bay take I-80 north, turn off to Napa, following Hwy. 29 to St. Helena. Just past the Old Bale Mill north of St. Helena, the entrance to the park is on your left. From the West Bay, take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 37 near Novato, go east to the junction with Hwy. 121 (turn left at the junction) and follow 121 north and east to Napa where it joins Hwy. 29. Continue northwest to the park. Meet in the parking lot at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch and liquids. There is a day use fee. Please carpool if possible. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6892). (✓)

**Saturday, April 18—Lake Merced, San Francisco.** Meet at **8 a.m.** at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This is a fine time to see spring migrants as well as many of the birds which winter in the area. We will caravan to Fort Funston to see Black Scoters and the Bank Swallow colony. Bring lunch, liquids and dress appropriately for cool coastal weather. We will bird until mid-afternoon. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

**Sunday, April 19—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.** We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** for the traditional Easter walk around the Chain of Lakes and the other lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl including Wood Ducks at this time of year. We also should see at least two varieties of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch at the Wave restaurant (\$4-\$5). We will meet at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes). Leader: Betty Short (921-3020—work phone).

**Saturday, April 25—San Andreas Lake and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir.** Meet at **8 a.m.** at the north gate of Sawyer Camp Bicycle Trail in Millbrae, San Mateo County. (*This is a Birdathon event. See page 51.*)

From San Francisco take Hwy. 280 south, exit at Larkspur Ave., go under the freeway, turn right on Skyline Blvd. and continue south to

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Hillcrest Blvd., turn right and go to the end of the road (the trailhead). From the south (Hwy. 92) go north on Hwy. 280 to the Millbrae Ave. exit. From Millbrae Ave. go north about a block and turn left at Hillcrest, follow it to the end and park. Bring lunch, liquids and footgear appropriate for hiking about seven miles. Leader: Alan Hopkins (585-5669). (✓)

**Sunday, April 26—Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park.** (*This is a Birdathon event. See page 51.*) From north Berkeley, drive up Spruce St. Where Spruce intersects Grizzly Peak Blvd., cross Grizzly and immediately turn left down Cañon Dr. and follow signs to the Tilden Nature Area. Meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the gate to the Nature Center. We will bird the Jewel Lake area in the morning. We should see common birds of the East Bay hills including many spring migrants. Leader: Leo Hallford (521-9550).

**Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3—Pinnacles National Monument.** Meet at the campground store on both mornings at **7:30 a.m.** On Saturday we will caravan from the store to the Monument for a four-mile hike. Bring liquids and a snack. Saturday afternoon is free for swimming in the campground pool, hiking or just relaxing. The leaders will provide details for an evening walk to look for Poor-wills and owls.

On Sunday we will bird around the campground and nearby area.

From the Bay Area go south from San Jose on Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 25. Take Hwy. 25 south through Hollister and past the towns of Tres Piños and Paicines to Hwy. 146 (the Pinnacles Hwy.). The campground is on the left side of this road about two miles east of the park boundary and provides the only facilities in the area. Motels are available in Hollister and King City, both about 35 miles from the Monument. Campground reservations are not available. The fee is \$5 per vehicle per night. There is a limit to the number of vehicles and persons per site.

This will be an excellent trip for beginners and should provide a fine introduction to one of Northern California's most beautiful and productive interior birding sites. Leaders: Shirley and Michael Kelly (387-8290). (✓)

**Carpooling arrangements** can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 642-1733 (work hours) or 236-9853 (home) and leave a message. She will contact you.

**Problems:** If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Dan Murphy (564-0074) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE



## February Observations —through February 24

It seems ironic that the fewest rare birds are found in our area during early to mid-spring, when most birders are out welcoming returning migrants. These commoner migrants distract many birders from looking for rarities, but there are also fewer to be found. Winter birds gradually depart and most spring vagrants appear very late in the season.

### CONTINUING OR REFOUND

Ten Cattle Egrets still at Bixler Rd. Feb. 16 (BR) represented the only reported flock. At Berkeley Aquatic Park a male Tufted Duck Feb. 6-12 (RG, NC, *et al.*) appeared 11 days ahead of the anniversary of last year's visit. A Tufted Duck remained at Mill Valley to Feb. 13 (mob). Mountain Plovers were at Clifton Court Forebay: 27 on Feb. 3 (JC, *et al.*), 33 on Feb. 14 (BR), 18 on Feb. 16 (BR), 8 on Feb. 22 (GF). In Panoche Valley, Mountain Plovers were scarce with only five sighted Feb. 7 (CC, *et al.*). Perhaps local drought caused most Mountain Plovers to winter elsewhere, as at Clifton Court Forebay or the 35 north of Winters Feb. 16 (EG). One American Golden Plover was still on SE Farallon 27 Jan. (PRBO). The **Little Gull** was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds to Feb. 16 (BR, *et al.*).

Eastern Phoebes stayed in Monterey (EM, AM, RJ) and Pacific Grove to Feb. 21. The **Common Skylark** was at Hall Ranch to Feb. 21 (JM, *et al.*). The female Black-and-white Warbler from the CBC was in Tilden Park Feb. 12-22 (EM, JL) and a male was close by on the same dates (EM, RSi, EH). These two are probably the same ones present last winter (1979-80). A Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler and three Nashville Warblers stayed near Short St., Pacific Grove, to Feb. 15 (one Nashville to Feb. 21 — all EM, AM). A different Black-and-white Warbler was found in Washington Park, Pacific Grove, Feb. 7-15 (EM, AM, GM, *et al.*). A Palm Warbler was in Pacific Grove to Feb. 15 (EM, AM); another on SE Farallon to Feb. 20 (PRBO).

After months with no reports, the pair of **Great-tailed Grackles** was again noted beside Fort Mason; first the male Feb. 1 (PW) and three days later both birds. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow remained at Pine Gulch Creek through Feb. 16 (DT) and a Swamp Sparrow was at Shields Salt Marsh Feb. 8-15 (DD, KH, *et al.*). One Lapland Longspur at Hall Ranch to Feb. 21 (JM, mob).

## NEW NOTABLES

A lightly oiled but unbanded penguin near Chimney Rock, Point Reyes, was independently found and identified as a Jackass Penguin on Feb. 3 (KC) and Feb. 16 (DH, BP, *fide* RJ). However, some points in the description at hand favor the Humboldt Penguin of the Peruvian coast, the penguin most likely to occur naturally in California and which has indeed been reported several times along the West Coast. These penguins are generally assumed to have been transported by man, but an assessment of all sightings may suggest contrary evidence. In any case, the Jackass Penguin is one of the least likely to stray to California; it is restricted to South Africa.

A Monterey pelagic trip Feb. 22 had a bonus Flesh-footed Shearwater in addition to the expected Short-taileds (DR, *et al.*). The Blue morph Snow Goose at the Los Banos refuge Feb. 7 (BH) was a regular Central Valley rarity, but the **blue morph Ross' Goose** at Gray Lodge the same day (RS, *et al.*) is a bird so rare that few people know it exists. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was identified in Panoche Valley Feb. 7 (CC, *et al.*). Four American Golden Plovers were at Dillon Beach Jan. 31 (DG, *et al.*). The eight at Spaletta Ranch, Point Reyes, Feb. 12 (at least six to Feb. 24 - AG, WG, *et al.*) were all of the race or species *fulva*, which seems to winter regularly here. A white Glaucous Gull at the Martinez Dump Jan. 31 (JG, SFB, *et al.*) was nevertheless in first winter plumage; this may have been the bird reported earlier. A probable first winter Glaucous Gull was at the Alameda Dump Jan. 31 (BR) and Feb. 7 (KC). Also on Jan. 31, at Moss Landing, a gull appeared to be a second or third winter Glaucous Gull (RJ).

A Poor-will flushed from the Rocky Ridge Fire Trail, Marin County, Feb. 22 (IT, *fide* DT) probably wintered locally. The **Cassin's Kingbird** at Crespi Pond Feb. 2 (LCB) was most noteworthy because of the winter date but also for the coastal location. The Sage Thrasher along Little Panoche Rd., Fresno County, Feb. 7 (CC, *et al.*) was at the northwestern limit of the species' winter range. Conversely, Palm Warblers are not expected inland, but two were reported: Gray Lodge Feb. 7 (RS, *et al.*, *fide* JH) and Mines Rd. near north end Feb. 22 (GF). The only summer grosbeak was a Black-headed in San Rafael Feb. 5-10 (GF). A belated report of a Lapland Longspur Jan. 13 at Hayward Landing (CS), where three were found last year.

**Observers:** Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Kurt Campbell, Chris Carpenter, Dennis Certahelli, Jim Clayton, Nancy Conzett, A. Laurence Curl, Donna Dittmann, Carter Faust, George Finger, Al

Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Doug Gomke, Ed Greaves, Russ Greenberg, Jeff Greenhouse, Kem Hainebach, Ed Hase, Barkley Hastings, Joel Hornstein, David Houle, Richard Jeffers, John Luther, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Gloria Markowitz, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Bob Boekelheide), Bill Pulliam, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Rich Sinchack (RSi), Rich Stallcup (RS), Naomi Svenningsen, Chris Swarth, Dorothy Tobkin, Irene Tomassi, Peter White.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen L. Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

## Conservation Notes

**OIL AND GAS LEASES THREATEN CONDORS.** Approximately 250 gas and oil leases throughout the Los Padres National Forest are being considered this month. Some of the proposed leases are in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary and other important areas of condor habitat. Letters are needed to express concern over these leases and their potential for harmful effects upon this critically endangered species. Contact the GGAS office for more information or write directly to Mr. Frederick G. deHoll, Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA 93017.

**A CONSERVATIONIST BUDGET-CUT PROPOSAL.** National Audubon Society and five other conservation organizations (Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, National Parks and Conservation Association, Wilderness Society and Environmental Defense Fund) have joined in recommending a set of federal budget-cutting measures that would aid the environment as well as the economy. The proposals would save the government about \$10 billion in Fiscal 1982 and bring in more than \$2 billion in additional revenues. Some of the proposed cuts are on the list President Reagan has sent to Congress — but most of them are not.

The conservationist proposal covers only budget items relating directly to such environmental issues as dams and canals, highways, energy, natural resource management, agriculture and economic development. All the proposed cuts are aimed at programs the conservationists consider environmentally destructive and economically wasteful.

—excerpted from *Audubon Leader*



**SAN FRANCISCO MEMBERS NEEDED FOR CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.** Though our Conservation Committee has recently been reorganized, not a single member from San Francisco has joined. This is a matter of serious concern to those of us interested in conservation issues in the City. During the last two weeks of February a fishing pier was constructed at the south end of Lake Merced. A preliminary investigation of the matter indicates public notice was not given, there is no EIR or Negative Declaration on file, the Coastal Commission was not contacted for a permit and the pier is only part of a master plan designed in 1965 which has been used as the basis for several projects at the lake since then. There appears to be so much we don't know about the goings on in the City that a thorough research project could keep a committee busy for the next year or more.

We need people now who are willing to make a commitment of time and effort for some time to come. We should have at least three members who are free to attend Coastal Commission hearings. We need one person willing to read the public notices in *The Progress*. We need several people to research the roles of the various commissions and departments. We need at least one member able to read and interpret layout plans. Someone with a background in chemistry would be helpful in analyzing chemicals used in our city parks. Persons with a background in geology, biology and botany are also needed.

Time commitments will vary from person to person. Several of our members should be needed only as resource people, while others who are free during the day are needed to attend meetings and research and library files. We should usually have one evening meeting a month. It only takes one person to recognize a need, but it will take a dozen or more to provide the information we need to influence policy in San Francisco.

Join GGAS in our continuing efforts to preserve and improve our urban environment. Call Dan Murphy at 564-0074 for more details.

**GRANT FOR MONO LAKE.** Recreation Equipment, Inc. (R.E.I.) has acted favorably on our grant request and will award \$1,500 to GGAS for its sponsorship of the summer educational program in cooperation with the Mono Lake Committee. The program would reach about 100,000 people through public tours at the lake, exhibits, slide programs and distribution of printed materials. The funds will be used to defray

living and travel expenses for three full-time volunteer interns from June through September. The R.E.I. grant will be of tremendous benefit in our efforts to preserve Mono Lake.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## Birding Classes

### Spring Shorebirds, Small Flycatchers

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey will teach two classes, sponsored by GGAS, at the Albany Adult School. The first, *Spring Shorebirds*, will deal with shorebirds as they migrate to their breeding areas and molt into breeding plumage. Slide lectures on Wednesday evenings (April 8 and 22 from 7-9 p.m.) will discuss the occurrence and plumages of both common and rare species. Saturday morning field trips (April 11, 18 and May 2 from 8 a.m.-12 noon) will concentrate on shorebird identification and behavior in varied habitats.

*Small Flycatchers* will explain the identification by appearance, voice, behavior and habitat of the very similar *Empidonax* flycatchers and pewees. The two Wednesday evening slide lectures (May 20 and 27 from 7-9 p.m.) will include recorded songs and calls. Class participants are urged to register early with the instructor (548-9507) for a limited-enrollment weekend field workshop under Steve's private sponsorship. We should see all California breeding species by visiting Yosemite and Mono Lake on May 30-31.

For more information, call Albany Adult School at 526-6811.

### Spring Bird Songs: A Benefit for PRBO

Spring at Point Reyes National Seashore is full of bird songs. Spend a day learning about these intriguing sounds with Marie Mans on Sunday, April 12 and/or April 26. Cost is \$12 per class. Proceeds will be used to install a bird sound display at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. For details contact Linda Parker, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Dr., Stinson Beach, CA 94970. If you decide to sign up and are also interested in joining a scouting party for these classes on Thursday, April 9, and Saturday, April 18, call Marie Mans at 284-7681.

### Birding Trips through Fremont Adult School

Alice Hoch will lead a series of six weekly bird identification classes in the South Bay. One of the highlights will be a trip to a near-by heron rookery. Classes meet on Tuesday, beginning April 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information call Fremont Adult School at 791-5841 or Ms. Hoch at 657-0475.





## Save Mono Lake Catalog Sale

This is catalog sale #2 for the benefit of Mono Lake; there will be another next month. Golden Gate Audubon Society is offering these donated quality items at substantial discount under the usual price, thus benefiting not only Mono Lake but you as well. These items may be viewed in the GGAS office, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, during the regular business hours of 9-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To reserve an item, call the office, 843-2222, during regular business hours, or 524-1506 evenings and weekends. Reservations will be held only 5 days without payment. Calls accepted for this April list of items beginning Wednesday, April 15. Some items may still be available from the March list; call the GGAS office to find out. Help Mono Lake while helping yourself to one of these attractive offers.



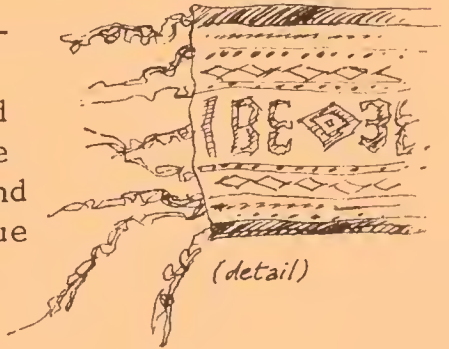
1. Book, Ascent, The Mountaineering Experience \$10.00  
in Word and Image, edited by Allen Steck  
and Steve Roper, published by Sierra Club  
Books, San Francisco, 1980; paperbound, 272  
pages. The experiences in word are those of  
some of the best known climbers (including  
Mark Twain's words from A Tramp Abroad) and  
in image are magnificent photographs--black-  
and white and color--and sketches. Steck  
and Roper of Berkeley are among the best  
known North American climbers. Retail \$14;  
autographed by the editors; donated by Allen  
Steck.
2. Book, Roughing It, by Mark Twain, published 5.00  
by Harper & Brothers; 2 vols. in one, 692  
pages, an early, red clothbound edition,  
faded spine, otherwise fine. Contains the  
wonderful Mark Twain experiences at Mono  
Lake, beginning, remember--"Mono Lake lies  
in a lifeless, treeless, hideous desert,  
eight thousand feet above the level of the  
sea, and is guarded by mountains two thou-  
sand feet higher, whose summits are always  
clothed in clouds." Donated by Ross Valley  
Book Co. on Solano Avenue in Albany.
3. Special evening at Chez Panisse. Gift 20.00  
certificate worth \$25 (dinner for 2) in  
the upstairs cafe. An Epicurean delight  
at Berkeley's highly rated restaurant.  
Tax included. Donated by Chez Panisse.
4. Antique Imari bowl, 6 in., multi- 65.00  
colored. Dated around 1825, late  
Edo period. Design of peonies,  
red fences, and red-crowned  
cranes. Underglaze blue center  
design of bamboo and chidori  
(plovers). Inside foot under-  
neath is an unglazed band typical of older  
Imari pieces. Retail \$75 up. Donated by  
Marguerite S. Dorsey, Asian Art Connection.



5. Furnace Creek Sunrise, Death Valley, oil painting by John Perkins, framed 12" x 18"; the stillness and beauty of the desert looking toward the Panamints are captured by the artist. Perkins has been painting since the age of 12; his works are in galleries in the Bay Area, Carmel, and his native Michigan. He is an Emeritus Professor and Vice President of the University of California and a trustee of the California College of Arts and Crafts. Gallery price \$175; donated by the artist. \$120.00




6. Turkoman tent band, 5½" x nearly 40'; colors dark brown, red, blue, ivory, apricot. The band was made by Turkoman people in Afghanistan and was used to wrap around a tent. In part the tent band was decorative, serving to identify the particular family and tribe; but in addition it served to hold the felt covering to the frame of the tent. The tent band is probably 20 years old. A true collector's item. Donated by Emmett Eiland Oriental Rugs, Solano Avenue in Berkeley. 200.00



7. Nova sleeping bag, down, 6" loft, mummy style, rated to 15°; ext. length 84", int. 6'0"; 2 lb. 14 oz. Green outer shell of durable nylon, with carrying bag. A real beauty; compare at \$200. Donated by The Ski Hut in Berkeley. 175.00

8. Peter Parnall print of the pelican, sitting on a piling looking down, fish looking up (nervously), with Parnall's uncanny ability to portray as the subject might experience it. Signed artist's proof, 1 of 35. Parnall's wildlife illustrations appear in over 80 books, some of which he has also authored. Retail \$70; donated by Greenwich Workshop gallery in Connecticut. 55.00



9. Turned black walnut bowl by Bob Stocksdales, 6½", with exquisite wood grain, finish, and thin wall for which this master woodturner is noted. His pieces are in museums and galleries throughout the United States. He and his wife, the weaver Kay Sekimachi, have their studios in Berkeley. Gallery price \$50; donated by the artist. \$35.00
- 
10. Pedro Gonzalez 1980 GGAS calendar bird series, 12 prints each hand colored, image size 10" x 13", suitable for framing; from a 300 signed, limited edition. The series is available in black and white or, by special order, in water color through Feather Press in Berkeley. Gonzalez is currently doing a series of color studies of waterfowl and game birds for Taxidermy Review Magazine and a mural for the Hikers' Hut in Sam McDonald Park. Gallery price \$60 ea.; donated by the artist. 45.00 ea
11. Pentax 7x21 compact monocular, roof prism, 89.00 fits into pocket or purse; with close-up lens attachment, converts to 22x microscope, great for viewing substructures at levels invisible to the unaided eye. May be inspected, with other Pentax and Celestron optics, at Refractions, 600 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 12 noon to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, or call Bill Hollis, 527-8664, for appointment. Retail \$100; donated by Refractions.
12. Book, State Parks of California from 1864 to the Present, by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., 1980; paperbound, 128 pages. The story of California's wonderfully diverse state park system, which goes back to the Civil War. Color photographs by Philip Hyde. Among Engbeck's publications are The Enduring Giants and La Purisima Mission. Retail \$8.95; autographed and donated by the author. 7.50



**Note:** This ballot is for members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society only. Unless you are a member, do not return this ballot.

For your vote to be counted, this ballot must be returned not later than **April 30**. Please remove this page from *The Gull* and mail or bring it to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705.

**Check one:**

- ☐ This ballot represents one vote for each candidate marked.  
☐ This ballot represents two votes (family membership).

**BOARD NOMINEE**

**OTHER**

President, <i>Jon Zablackis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
First Vice President, <i>Dan Murphy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Second Vice President, <i>Robin Pulich</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Treasurer, <i>Joan Zawaski</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Recording Secretary, <i>Helen Green</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Corresponding Secretary, <i>Minnie Groshong*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Director, <i>Joyce Davis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Director, <i>Ellen Sarbone</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....

\* A vote for Ms. Groshong constitutes approval of the nominee to retain position for more than the maximum three-year term.

Name.....

Signature.....

Post Office regulations will not allow this ballot to go as  
a self-mailer.

*Please* place in envelope and mail to:

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

2718 TELEGRAPH AVE., #206

BERKELEY, CA 94705



## Birdathon April 25-26

A nationwide Birdathon to benefit National Audubon Society's conservation activities will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26. GGAS will lead field trips for the Birdathon on both days (see pages 42-43), so begin lining up your sponsors and plan to participate either through one of the field trips or as an individual.

This is how a Birdathon works: those who plan to take part collect pledges from sponsors who agree to contribute money for each bird species seen by the counter during a 24-hour period. Pledges can be in any amount. The counter then goes birding and tries to see as many species as possible. He later contacts his sponsors with his total count and collects their pledge money which is turned over to the chapter's compiler (in our case, the GGAS office).

Prizes will be offered in regional and national categories for the greatest number of species and for the greatest amount of money raised. One-third of the proceeds of a chapter's Birdathon will be kept by the chapter. One-third will go to the regional office to support regional activities and a final third to the nationwide programs of National Audubon.

If you plan to participate, contact the GGAS office by postcard or phone. Good birding!

## Backyard Birders' Question Box

During the late spring and early summer, many calls to the GGAS office deal with the question, "What shall I do with the young bird my children found and brought home?" Audubon members, who presumably "know all about birds," may be also consulted as to what is best to be done for an "abandoned" or injured bird.

Fledglings are young birds that have left the nest but are still being cared for by one or both of the parent birds. In many species, such care may continue for weeks, diminishing as the young bird matures. Often a young one is left alone for a time while the parent hunts for food. In urban backyards, the foraging area can easily take the parent bird out of sight for a while. Sometimes the fledgling will remain quietly where left, but sometimes it will move about calling plaintively for the parent.

It is very understandable that a sympathetic observer, seeing an obviously young bird and not seeing a mature bird of the same species

near-by, would be concerned for the young one's safety. However, unless the bird seems to be injured or in immediate danger, as from predators, heavy traffic or the like, it is best to keep hands off. If a bird has already been taken from a place where it was "found," it should be returned to that place, or reasonably close, as soon as possible.

For advice on care for injured birds, GGAS recommends consulting your local Humane Society or SPCA. In the East Bay area, the Alexander Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek (935-1978) and in the West Bay, the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco (863-1399) will give suggestions as to how to handle specific problems.

If chance puts a baby wild animal into your care and you have the time, the courage and the infinite patience to undertake caring for it, your best handbook is *Care of the Wild Feathered and Furred* by Mae Hickman and Maxine Guy (Unity Press, Santa Cruz, CA). It is available in the nature books section of many bookstores.

If you would like to share information on bird behavior that you have observed or if you have a question about the birds that are commonly found in our area, write to or call Kay Steinberg, 850-38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121 (751-4293).

—KAY STEINBERG

## Method to His Madness

After mailing my check and waiting nearly a year, Don Roberson's new book, *Rare Birds of the West Coast* (1980. Woodcock Publications, Pacific Grove, California. \$24.95) flew in one day like a vagrant warbler — an impressive bulky one. In its nearly 500 pages Roberson sets out to cover the status, distribution and often identification of those birds considered to be rarities on the West Coast of North America. This is a birders' book, a book for listers, twitchers and birdos. It's full of wonderful and useless information which does nothing to abet the cause of either conservation or computerized ornithology. But how fine it is to see maps, graphs and an annotated text all about rare birds!

*Rare Birds of the West Coast* comes equipped with the usual operating instructions: introduction, list of abbreviations, directions for reading the maps, etc. For each of the 288 species treated, their sites of occurrence have been mapped, their dates of occurrence have been graphed and for most there is a photo. For some species there is also a brief discussion and an identification section. In addition to the ID sections accompanying the species accounts, there are four longer essays on peeps, *empidonax* flycatchers, *catharus* thrushes and pipits. Basically,

all this ID material is a collection and summary of some of the mass of field work done in recent years by active birders and published, some of it, in various journals.

And there is a bibliography! It's not annotated, but expecting that would be like expecting *both* Red-tailed Tropicbird *and* Cook's Petrel while feeding the fishes over Davidson Seamount. Anyway, there is a six-page bibliography. Use it: it will lead you into some of the aves-in-wonderland literature mentioned above where you will meet the irascible Allan Phillips or listen to K. H. Voous hold forth on the capricious taxonomic history of the Isabelline Shrike.

Patterns emerge from this mass of data and you might well use the maps and graphs to plan a little campaign, but the black-and-white photographs would be just about worthless in the field (and all are redundant as documentation of state records). This is because Roberson chose to limit himself to photos taken in the area covered by the book. More useful would have been "illustrative photos" taken anywhere, such as that of the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel taken near the Galapagos.

The color plates are also weak. At a time when birders are making "gestalt" identifications and talking about the "jizz" of a bird (an unfortunate British expression), none of the paintings in this book, except maybe Tim Manolis' pipits, is successful in conveying the weight, stance or gait of the living bird.

About typographical errors: there must be more of them in this book than Palm Warblers records for California (see p. 356). The best one is the "Whopper" Swan on p. 65. Mostly they are merely annoying; Wilson's Plover and all the hummingbirds, at least, are missing from the index.

Even though *Rare Birds of the West Coast* has suffered in its production, still it's great fun and also useful for the overview it provides: first, in the introductory essay, "Patterns and Theories on Vagrancy," where Roberson discusses the patterns underlying the seeming vagaries of rare bird occurrences and the theories proposed to bring those patterns into focus and second, by making an enormous amount of information accessible in one volume.

So whether you're on your way to becoming the second guy in California to see 500 species over the Memorial Day weekend or maybe you just like to take a couple of beers, go sit by some aromatic mudflat on a hot afternoon and try to make out the webbing between the peeps' toes — either way, take this book with you.

—TONY BRIGGS



## GGAS' First Annual Potluck Meeting

This year we are trying something more informal than a restaurant-type banquet for our annual get-together. Mark your calendars for a potluck dinner to be held on **June 19** at the Leone Lodge, 444 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Details in the May Gull.

### NOTICE TO GGAS MEMBERS

Amendments to the bylaws of the GGAS Constitution to conform to the recent changes in the California Corporation Law regarding "Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents" and "Self Dealing" will be voted on at the June 19 annual meeting. Also to be discussed for possible amendment will be Article I, Section 8, of the bylaws regarding offering local memberships. This change would be consistent with National Audubon Society's new category of "associate member" whereby local (GGAS) membership is not included with the National membership. Section 8 presently reads: "Local members admitted as such, prior to July 1, 1960, but who are not members of the National Audubon Society, may continue in good standing by payment of local dues. Since that date no person may join the society without also becoming a member of the National Audubon Society."

### Protect the Terns!

California Least Tern chicks at the Alameda Naval Air Station breeding area need protection from wind, sun and predators when they begin hatching. Please call Laura Collins immediately at 843-3263 if you have clay sewer pipe or Spanish-type clay roofing tiles you can donate toward this effort.

—LAURA COLLINS, *Coordinator of the GGAS Least Tern Study*

### Point Reyes Field Seminars

Point Reyes Field Seminars offer a variety of courses in natural history, education and the arts. Taught by recognized professionals, the class sizes are small, generally limited to 18-24 participants. Of special interest to birders might be, *Spring Birds: Migrants and Breeders*, taught by Jules Evens, May 16-17, *Predatory Birds* with Diane Williams, May 30-31 and *Breeding Birds and Their Habitats* presented by Bob Stewart, June 13-14.

To obtain a catalog of all seminars or for further information write Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, CA 94956.

## April Cooper Society Meeting

Dr. Stephen T. Emlen of Cornell University will speak on the mysteries of migratory orientation at the April 6 meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society to be held in Room 2503 of the Life Sciences Bldg. on the UC Campus. A business meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. precedes the 8 p.m. lecture. All are welcome.

## Word from the Ranch

The egrets and herons are nesting at Audubon Canyon Ranch, located on Hwy. 1 three miles north of Stinson Beach. The Ranch is open to the public on weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until July 4.

Golden Gate Transit buses which will take you to the Ranch leave Marin City twice a day with returns in the afternoon. For schedule information call Golden Gate Transit at 332-6600.

**Marin Audubon Society** will hold its annual Mothers' Day barbeque at the Ranch on **May 10**, beginning at noon. Cost is \$5.25 for adults, \$3.25 for children.

## DR. ERIC REYNOLDS

His many friends were saddened to learn of the death on February 24 of Dr. Theodore Erie Reynolds. His contributions to GGAS as well as those of his widow Laurel are too many to list. He served as president in 1947, vice president in 1956 and director in 1948, 1949 and 1955. In mid-January we received a beautifully written letter from Erie and Laurel telling of their plans to leave "Guillemot Cove," Washington, their home during the past years and return to Berkeley. The letter is on file in the GGAS office for their friends to read.

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgments will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



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April 1981

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$20 per year (individual); \$25 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 75¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**